REMARKS

The Office Communication indicates that the preliminary amendment filed with the request for continued prosecution (CPA), filed October 10, 2002 was non-responsive because the claims were improperly amended. In particular, it is noted that the claim amendments were duplicative of the unentered amendments made in the Response After Final (April 9, 2002). In addition, the marked-up and clean copies of claims 5 and 25 did not correspond.

Applicants apologize for any confusion caused by the amendments made to the claims in the preliminary amendment filed with the CPA. Attached hereto is a **revised version showing changes made to claim 5** (reflecting the amendments made in the Response After Final and shown in the clean copies submitted with the CPA and Response After Final). Claims 23 and 25 have been amended herein to correct their dependencies and a **version showing changes made** to these claims is attached hereto. Finally, also attached hetero is a copy of the **currently pending claim set** (including the amendments made after final, entered when the CPA was filed and the amendments made to claims 23 and 25 herein).

Applicants stand by the arguments made in their Remarks section of the Preliminary Amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and request early notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

Dahna S. Pasternak
Registration No. 41,411

CHIRON CORPORATION
Intellectual Property - R440
P. O. Box 8097
Emeryville, CA 94662-8097
Tel.: (510) 923-2708
Fax: (510) 655-3542

REVISED VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES PREVIOUSLY MADE TO CLAIM 5

5. (Three Times Amended) The method according to claim [3] 4, wherein said viral antigen is obtained from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) [HIV].

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS 23 AND 25

23. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim [1] 14, wherein said gene delivery vehicle is a recombinant retrovirus.

25. (Twice Amended) The composition of claim [1] 14, wherein the gene delivery vehicle comprises naked DNA.

PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) A method for generating an immune response against one or more intracellular pathogens within warm-blooded animals, comprising:

(a) administering to a warm-blooded animal a gene delivery vehicle comprising a polynucleotide encoding at least one immunogenic portion of an antigen obtained from an intracellular pathogen; and

(b) administering to said warm-blooded animal at least one protein which comprises at least one of said immunogenic portion of said antigen, such that an immune response against the intracellular pathogen is generated.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of administering an immunomodulatory cofactor.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said protein is administered prior to administration of said gene delivery vehicle.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said intracellular pathogen is virus and said antigen a viral antigen.

5. (Three Times Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said viral antigen is obtained from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said antigen is a hepatitis B antigen.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said hepatitis B antigen is selected from the group consisting of HBeAg, HBcAg and HbsAg.

8. The method according to claim 5 wherein said antigen is a hepatitis C antigen.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said hepatitis C antigen is selected from the group consisting of core antigen C, E 1, E2/NS1, NS2, NS3, NS4 and NS5.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said intracellular pathogen is a parasite.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said gene delivery vehicle is a recombinant retrovirus.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said gene delivery vehicle is selected from the group consisting of alphaviruses, adeno-associated virus and parvovirus.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said gene delivery vehicle is a nucleic acid expression vector, or a eukaryotic layered vector initiation system.

14. (Amended) A composition comprising a gene delivery vehicle comprising a polynucleotide encoding at least one immunogenic portion of an antigen derived from an intracellular pathogen, a protein which comprises said immunogenic portion of said antigen, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15. The composition according to claim 14, further comprising an imunomodulatory cofactor.

16. The composition according to claim 14, wherein said intracellular pathogen is a virus, and said antigen a viral antigen.

17. (Amended) The composition according to claim 16, wherein said viral antigen is obtained from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

18. The composition according to claim 16, wherein said antigen is a hepatitis B antigen.

19. The composition according to claim 18, wherein said hepatitis B antigen is selected from the group consisting of HBeAg, HBcAg and HbsAg.

20. The composition according to claim 16, wherein said antigen is a hepatitis C antigen.

21. (Amended) The composition according to claim 20, wherein said hepatitis C antigen is selected from the group consisting of core antigen C, El, E2/NS1, NS2, NS3, NS4 and NS5.

22. The composition according to claim 14, wherein said intracellular pathogen is a parasite.

23. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 14, wherein said gene delivery vehicle is a recombinant retrovirus.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the gene delivery vehicle comprises naked DNA.

25. (Twice Amended) The composition of claim 14, wherein the gene delivery vehicle comprises naked DNA.